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Philippines

Poultry and Products

Avian Influenza in the Philippines

2005

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Report Highlights:

On July 7, 2005, the Philippine Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) announced the detection of a H5 avian influenza strain in a duck farm in Calumpit, Bulacan, north of Metro Manila. To prevent the spread of the flu strain, the BAI, in cooperation with the Philippine Department of Health, immediately implemented various control measures. To date, only Japan and Sabah have instituted bans on the importation of Philippine poultry and poultry products. Japan is the largest export market for Philippine poultry products.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Manila [RP1]
[RP]

On July 7, 2005, the Philippine Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) announced the detection of a H5 avian influenza strain in a few ducks in a farm in Calumpit, Bulacan, north of Metro Manila. According to BAI, the "low-risk" flu strain was detected following routine tests done on blood samples collected by BAI from the Bulacan duck farm which was applying for certification to export "balut" or exotic duck egg. BAI is currently awaiting confirmation from the OIE reference laboratory in Australia of the specific strain that has affected the ducks.

The BAI and the Department of Health (DOH) stated that they have undertaken various control measures including the immediate culling of the affected flocks, the ban of movement and sale of live poultry within a three kilometer radius from the affected farm for one week and sustained surveillance and testing of all poultry farms in nearby areas.

Moreover, the BAI stated that it has voluntarily stopped all exports of poultry and poultry products. BAI officials have said that it is confident, however, that exports are likely to resume despite the detection of the H5 strain. For the first six months of this year the Philippines exported about 3,000 MT of poultry products, mainly value-added processed chicken products to Japan, which is the Philippines largest market for poultry products. Year-to-date, Philippine poultry exports are already three times the volume exported in 2004.

However, the Japanese government recently suspended all imports of poultry and poultry products from the Philippines following the BAI's announcement of a temporary halt in all Philippine poultry exports. Sabah, the eastern state of Malaysia, has likewise stopped all imports of live birds and poultry products from the Philippines.

The Philippine Department of Trade and Industry is currently ascertaining whether the Japanese government will continue to accept U.S. chicken products, which are further processed and packed in the Philippines and then re-exported to Japan.

The most recent BAI updates indicate that none of the poultry within the 3-km quarantine area has tested positive for the same strain. The BAI will continue testing all poultry within the 3-km zone. The Philippines has already reported the H5 occurrence to the OIE.